IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the organism is a bacterium, yeast, fungus, plant or animal.

A2

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein:

in step (ii) polynucleotide sequences flanking one side of the transposons are isolated to give a pool of sequences and polynucleotide sequences flanking the other side of the transposons are isolated to give a separate second pool of sequences; and

in step (iii) the first pool of sequences is hybridised with a first sample of the said polynucleotide library and the second pool of sequences is hybridised with a second sample of the said polynucleotide library.

A3

6. A method according to claim 4, wherein the library of transposon mutants is a library of Tn*phoA* *E. coli* mutants.

A4

8. A method for identifying a conditional essential gene of an organism comprising:

(i) providing a first sample of a library of transposon mutants of the said organism (input library);

(ii) providing a second sample of the library and subjecting that sample to a conditional restraint;

(iii) collecting the mutants that survive the conditional restraint in step (ii) to give a new library (output library);

(iv) carrying out a method according to claim 1 on the input library from step (i) and on the output library from step (iii), thereby to determine a conditional essential gene of the organism.

10. A method for identifying:

(i) an inhibitor of transcription and/or translation of an essential gene identified by a method according to claim 1 or a conditional essential gene identified by a method according to claim 8; and/or

(ii) an inhibitor of activity of a polypeptide encoded by a said gene,

which method comprises determining whether a test substance can inhibit transcription and/or translation of a said gene and/or activity of a polypeptide encoded by a said gene.

Cancel claims 9, 14-16, 20, 22, 26 and 27 without prejudice.